

# YoungStar Definitions

## **Accreditation**

Accreditation means a formal system for validating and recognizing the components of a group or family child care program to improve the quality of the child care program and inform consumers that is verified by an entity separate from DCF.

## **Anniversary Date**

This is the date by which a provider has to reapply to YoungStar every year. It is the anniversary of the date the program was first rated in YoungStar. This date does not change from year to year under normal circumstances. For example, if a provider's rating were finalized on October 1, 2011, their anniversary date is October 1 in 2012 and will be October 1 every year after.

## **Attendance Based Wisconsin Shares Authorization**

Wisconsin Shares payments that reimburse the child care provider on an hourly basis for only the hours of the child's actual attendance in a given week, up to

## **Enrollment Based Wisconsin Shares Authorization**

Wisconsin Shares payments that reimburse the child care provider for a set amount for a block of hours per week as long as the child attends for at least one hour per week.

## **Group Child Care Program**

A group child care program is a program that provides care and supervision in a child care center for 9 or more children for less than 24 hours a day.

## **Group Leader**

In school-age care, a Group Leader has the responsibilities that include supervision and guidance of a group of children in the program under the direction of a Site Supervisor/Coordinator/Director/Administrator. Group Leader will assist in daily planning and implementing of activities, communication with families, and relations with the community.

## **Family Child Care Provider**

A family child care program is a program that provides care and supervision in a home-based setting for 4 to 8 children (licensed provider), and up to 3 children under the age of 7 (certified provider) who are not related to the provider for less than 24 hours a day.

## **Formal Rating with Observation**

A Formal Rating with Observation is a process by which rating observers come into a child care program to evaluate several aspects of the child care program for measures of quality. The Consortium will ensure that formal rating with observation will occur in a valid and reliable approach across all six regions in Wisconsin. Formal raters will have previous experience and reliability with utilizing evidence based tools, and will complete accurate and valid observation assessments based on quality indicators.

### **Four Year Old Kindergarten (4K)**

When offered, 4-Year-Old Kindergarten is universal and open to all children. When a district offers 4K, it must be open for all age eligible children in the district. More and more school districts are taking community approaches to four-year-old kindergarten by offering the program in an array of settings including schools, child care, and Head Start.

### **Head Start**

Wisconsin is home to 42 Head Start and 20 Early Head Start programs operated by 44 unique organizations—18 of which provide both Head Start and Early Head Start services. Children from birth to age five are age-eligible for Head Start (preschool children ages three to five) or Early Head Start (birth to age three and pregnant women). Specific criteria have been established for who is eligible to participate. Stand-alone Head Start programs and those that offer three or fewer hours of child care per day are eligible for a 5 Star rating in YoungStar as long as the program has no deficiencies identified by the U.S. Administration for Children and Families (ACF).

### **Lead Teacher**

A lead teacher is a group child care worker who plans, implements and supervises the daily activities for a designated group of children

### **Micro-Grants**

Micro-Grants are available to child care programs that request and participate in YoungStar technical consultation. Micro-Grant resources will be used to support child care providers' quality improvement plans. Quality Improvement Plans will be created by providers in consultation with technical consultants from the local YoungStar offices.

### **Model Work Standards**

Model Work Standards is a tool that is used as an in-depth examination of their child care work environment - both the interpersonal climate of the workplace, as well as policies and practices that define good working conditions

### **Professional Development Technical Consulting**

Participants in YoungStar have an opportunity to get support in the development of individual and or program professional development plans. These plans will allow programs to identify opportunities for meeting goals related to qualifications and competencies. This service can occur via telephone or on-site through consultation with Wisconsin Early Childhood Association professional development counselors.

### **Quality Improvement Plan (QIP)**

Quality Improvement Plan is an ongoing cycle of self-study and assessment and planning for improvement within the child care program. The quality improvement plan is used to document, implement and evaluate the quality of programming on an ongoing basis.

## **Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)**

A quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) is a systemic approach to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early and school-age care and education programs. Similar to rating systems for restaurants and hotels, QRIS award quality ratings to early and school-age care and education programs that meet a set of defined program standards.

QRIS are composed of five common elements: (1) standards; (2) accountability measures; (3) program and practitioner outreach and support; (4) financial incentives; and (5) parent/consumer education efforts. Currently, 23 States have a statewide QRIS with all five elements.

## **Regulatory Compliance**

### Licensed Providers

Licensed providers will be out of regulatory compliance upon receipt of notice from the Department of Children and Families that the program has 1) been revoked; 2) been denied a license; or 3) has had their license suspended. For programs that are found to be out of regulatory compliance, the provider's rating will be changed to a one star.

All three regulatory actions, the revocation, denial and suspension, have an associated appeal right, as described in Ch. 227, Wis. Stats.

In the case of revocations, denials and license suspensions, the program will remain out of regulatory compliance until the regulatory enforcement action is resolved. Any future participation in the Wisconsin Shares program depends upon the conditions articulated in the final ruling or the settlement of the revocation case. If the program continues to operate during the revocation or denial proceedings, the provider will continue to have access to YoungStar training and technical assistance. If and when a provider is deemed to be in regulatory compliance, the provider's prior rating will be restored.

### Certified Providers

Certified providers will become out of regulatory compliance upon receipt of notice from the Department of Children and Families that the program has been revoked or denied re-certification.

As with licensed providers, in the case of programs that are found to be out of regulatory compliance, the provider's rating will be changed to a one star. If the program continues to operate during the regulatory enforcement proceedings, the provider will continue to have access to YoungStar training and technical assistance. If and when a provider is deemed to be in regulatory compliance, the provider's prior rating will be restored.

### Shares Suspension

If a provider is suspended from the Wisconsin Shares program, their rating will be changed to one star. The provider will remain at one star until the term of the YoungStar/Shares Participation Contract expires. At that time the provider will be removed from the YoungStar program.

If the program continues to operate after the Shares suspension, the provider will continue to have access to YoungStar training and technical assistance until such time as they are removed from the program. If the provider is subsequently reinstated, the provider's prior rating will be restored.

## **School-Age Care**

School-age programs are defined as programs that provide enrichment activities and programming primarily during the hours before and after school, and primarily serve children ages 5 - 12. In some limited circumstances younger children may be enrolled. More information about school age care can be found on the **For Providers** section of the YoungStar web site at:

<http://www.dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/providers.htm>

## **Site Supervisor/Coordinator/Director/Administrator**

In school-age care, this person is responsible for the recruitment, hiring, and guidance of teaching staff, and – when necessary – for firing or dismissal of staff. Research shows that programs with well-qualified Site Supervisors/ Coordinators/Directors/Administrators demonstrate higher quality. This category recognizes a variety of ways to earn points by meeting higher levels of Site Supervisor/Coordinator/ Director/Administrator qualifications.

## **Technical Assistance/Technical Consultation (TA or TC)**

Technical Consultation is a process in which YoungStar team members meet with programs at their site to support development or refinement of a quality improvement plan. The consultant will also provide support in putting the plan into action. While the movement forward in an action plan is the choice of a program, consultants can bring many strategies and resources to achieve goals.

The consulting will be based on your program self-assessment, draft quality improvement plan, ideas, hopes, and vision for growing the quality of your program. The technical consultant will also bring skills, knowledge of early care and education, experience supporting change, and resources based on research and best practice. Together the program and consultant will monitor progress toward quality improvement goals.

## **Technical Consultant**

A Technical Consultant is a highly qualified individual with a combination of credit-based education and experience who will provide assistance to providers in Wisconsin. YoungStar providers will be assigned a Technical Consultant who will engage and partner with the providers in addressing areas to improve the quality of care they provide.

## **Tiered Reimbursement**

A quality initiative that offers higher Wisconsin Shares subsidy payments to child care programs that demonstrate they meet higher standards of care. Programs are paid based upon the star rating they earn in YoungStar.

## **The Registry**

The Registry is a career level system that recognizes the professional achievements of the childhood care and education profession in Wisconsin. The Registry documents verified formal and informal education on individuals in the early care and education field.

## **Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards**

Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards is a tool to provide a framework of developmentally appropriate expectations for young children that can guide the creation, evaluation, and improvement

of conditions necessary for children's optimal development and create a common language. The Standards specify developmental expectations for children from birth through entrance to first grade. The Standards reflect attention to all the domains of a child's learning and development.

### **Wisconsin Shares**

Wisconsin Shares is the child care subsidy program for working families administered by the Department of Children and Families.

### **YoungStar Consortium**

YoungStar Consortium is made up of Supporting Families Together Association (SFTA), Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA) and Celebrate Children Foundation (CCF). The Consortium was selected to administer YoungStar in six regions in Wisconsin. The YoungStar Consortium is responsible for the YoungStar application process, on-site technical consultation, regional and community training delivery, formal rating with observation, administration of micro-grants, assisting parents with locating child care programming, and working with DCF and other key state, regional and local partners to support child care programming.